

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-8 are pending.

Rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Mondardini (WO 96/00951)

Applicants submit that for the reasons discussed below present claims 1-8 are not anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by Mondardini.

Applicants disclose and claim a **loop antenna that encompasses the port opening** for the smartcard. As a result, any hot wire conductors attached to the smart card must pass directly through the loop antenna if they are to extend from the smartcard through the port to the outside. This factor, together with the fact that a loop antenna can contain any number of turns, produces a signal that can meaningfully detect current variations. In this regard, claim 1 recites "... *the port detector has a loop antenna encompassing the opening forming the port, the loop antenna being responsive to time varying currents passing along the conductors* ..." Claim 6 recites a similar limitation in method form. Applicants submit that Mondardini does not disclose or suggest such a feature.

By contrast, Mondardini does not use a loop antenna, but rather uses over and under electrodes 17; 17' that operate as electrostatic plates. Furthermore, Mondardini requires that the electrode plates be positioned adjacent and very near the reading contacts 14 in order to derive signals from **both the reading contacts 14 as well as to derive signals from any "unauthorized" wires** connected to the contact laminae 12 (see p. 4, lines 1-5, 13-16, p. 5, lines 8-16). Thus Mondardini does not in any way disclose or suggest an "... antenna encompassing the opening forming the port..." as recited in the present claims, much less a "loop antenna" as further recited therein.

Rather, Mondardini teaches away from such positioning of the detection device as shown in both Figs. 1 and 2, and described in the specification, since the contact pins are positioned near the foremost end position of the card that is inserted into the slot (and hence, the electrodes 17, 17' are also necessarily near that end). This is also suggested on page 8 of Applicants' specification, which states, "the smart card patch 109 is displayed well within, and remote from, the smart card port 112 formed by smart card collar 113. Thus, Applicants' claimed invention, namely that of a port detector having a "loop antenna encompassing the opening forming the port" advances the art by

providing an inexpensive and effective device positioned at the port opening for determining a hot wired card, effectively independent of the actual signals introduced to the smart card.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Mondardini fails to disclose or suggest a notable limitation of claims 1 and 6, and thus, claims 1 and 6, and the claims that depend therefrom, are not anticipated by Mondardini.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6815, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,
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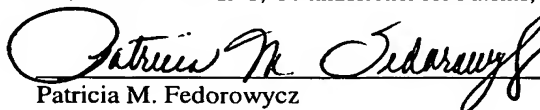
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July 12, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 5312, Princeton, NJ 08543-5312.

July 12, 2004
Date


Patricia M. Fedorowycz